



Lauren Schmidt

Defense Innovation Unit Experimental

Lauren Schmidt is the Pathways Director at the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx), located in Mountain View, CA. DIUx aims to scout, connect and support the innovation of disruptive technology that sustains and extends U.S. strategic advantage in defense while contributing to our nation's security and prosperity. DIUx will help to cultivate and facilitate a lasting relationship between new innovators and the Department of Defense.

Prior to her position at DIUx, Ms. Schmidt served as the Special Assistant to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology). In that capacity, she advised and supported the Principal Deputy across the full spectrum of policy and oversight matters concerning Army acquisition – including operations of a 6,000 person organization managing over 600 Army weapon systems programs and contracts totaling more than \$70B. In this capacity, she helped develop and promulgate the Department's acquisition reform proposals included in congressional legislation. She also previously served as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement), focusing on oversight of all Army procurement operations and the development of the Army contracting workforce.

Ms. Schmidt holds a Master of Science in Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts, both from the University of Virginia.